

Commission, he has served the community in many other ways throughout his life.

I am sure that he will continue to help many people in retirement, because Mike Brown has always had a heart for service. But I can assure everyone that our Nation would be much stronger if we had more citizens like Mike Brown.

I would like to call to the attention of my Colleagues the South Knox Shopper News which ran as a part of the Knoxville News Sentinel.

SOUTH KNOX SHOPPER NEWS

“BROWN CALLS RETIREMENT ‘BITTERSWEET’”

(By Betsy Pickle)

County Commissioner Mike Brown has a lot of years invested in Knox County—about 227 of them.

Brown is a member of one of the First Families of Tennessee. His Virginia-born Brown ancestors received a land grant of about 600 acres in the Stock Creek area around 1789—well before John Sevier became a neighbor. At the time, the land wasn't even in Knox County; it was part of Hawkins County.

So retiring after two terms on the commission has been “bittersweet” for the former insurance agent. Last Wednesday, on the day his service officially ended, Brown said he'd already done some county business in the morning, and he wasn't going to call it quits until 5 p.m. rolled around.

Brown himself grew up on Stock Creek Road with his younger sister, Pat, and brother, Tom, both now deceased. He went to Bonny Kate School when it was “four classrooms, a lunchroom and two paths down the hill to the little brown buildings.”

He remembers spending time at his grandparents' place, where he now lives with wife Jan. About 42 acres of the original property remains in the family's possession.

Taking care of the land is a passion of Brown, who's out tending to his Muscatine vines when a Shopper reporter arrives. He drives his Kubota four-wheeler out to his barn for a photo session. It's his “favorite toy.”

“I got it five years ago,” the 76-year-old says “I wish I'd had it 10 years before that; my back and body would be in better shape.”

Tooling—pun intended—around his “Country Cadillac” is his “golf.”

“This is my relaxation. I throw my tools in the back and I go around, and there's always something to do. I'll just piddle all day long, and I'm in seventh heaven.”

He loves fixing things—and plowing rows through his blackberry field. But he's not a farmer—or gardener.

“I don't have a green thumb. My grandma did; my sister did. Jan does. She's pretty good.”

Aside from 11 years working in furniture sales in the Midwest, Brown has always lived close to home. He loves the land, and he loves its history. That's what drew him to help start what's now called the South-Doyle Neighborhood Association in 1973. He and D.J. Krahwinkel are the only two left from the original group.

“It kind of died out for a while,” he says. “Any time a situation came up, I was the only one for years and years that went down to the County Commission or MPC to fight for the community.”

A little over 20 years ago, some neighbors started talking about reforming the group, and Brown was ready for them. It was then that he met Carson Dailey, his successor as Ninth District commissioner.

“Being on the commission has been kind of a continuance of this community work because now you're not only working for you

district, but you're working for the entire county with legislative decisions,” he says. “I have learned a lot about how government works, why it works that way.”

“I've met some wonderful people. We have a great bunch of leaders in the Knox County government from mayor on down.”

Brown says there's been an entirely new attitude on the commission since the infamous Black Wednesday, when the (then) 19 commissioners met to appoint the replacement officeholders and slipped term-limited politicians back into jobs. Commissioners now zealously adhere to Sunshine laws and avoid any appearance of violating them.

During the private and public service, he's proudest of having gotten a scenic highway designation for Gov. John Sevier Highway, keeping the road as uncluttered as possible; helping to organize Knox County's 225th anniversary celebration; and working to get the Safety Center established.

“I'd hoped we would have been able to get something inked before I went out of the office, but it's close.”

Even though he's off duty officially, Brown doesn't expect to end his service to the community.

“I enjoy helping people.”

RECOGNIZING CHRISTOPHER NEYMAN FOR RECEIVING A PATIENT ADVOCATE AWARD FROM THE HEALTHSOUTH REHABILITATION HOSPITAL OF ALTOONA

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2016

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Christopher Neyman, a winner of the Patient Advocate Award from the HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital of Altoona.

Chris's wife, Deb, suffered a catastrophic sequence of events in 2015, when she had two strokes and was diagnosed with ovarian cancer. Throughout this immensely challenging time, Chris managed to care for his wife's every need while also caring for their two children, Tommy and Martha Jean.

With Chris's unrelenting support, Deb has made a miraculous recovery, and has even returned to many of her previous activities, such as teaching at the Glendale Area School District. According to many of those involved in Deb's treatment and care, Chris was an endless supply of support and motivation throughout Deb's recovery.

While his wife's positivity and impressive efforts to recover are worth celebrating in their own right, there can be no doubt that Chris has provided exemplary care. Given his admirable actions in support of his wife and family through a time of tremendous hardship, Chris is unquestionably deserving of this recognition. As such, it is my honor to help celebrate his having received this award.

HONORING THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN TOUCHED BY CANCER

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2016

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor those who have been touched by cancer and those lost to the disease.

Almost every family in America has been impacted by cancer, one of the great public health challenges of our time.

I am glad to honor my late mother, Hazel Payne, who lost her battle to brain cancer when I was four years old. And my late father, Congressman Donald Payne, Sr., who lost his battle to colorectal cancer four and a half years ago.

The best way we can honor those touched by cancer is to make the disease a national priority.

Today, we have a real opportunity to accelerate advances in cancer prevention, detection, and treatment, and to decrease the number of people suffering from this disease.

Congress should increase funding to the National Institutes of Health and National Cancer Institute for life-saving research and advancement.

If we're going to win the fight against cancer, we need to provide the resources necessary to develop new treatments, and we need to accelerate research that is under way.

Organizations like the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, which held its annual Lights of Hope ceremony in Washington, D.C. last night, deserve our gratitude for their tireless efforts against cancer.

Only by coming together in this fight will we find a cure.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PAY EQUITY FOR ALL ACT OF 2016

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2016

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Pay Equity for All Act of 2016, a bill that will help eliminate the gender and racial pay gap by prohibiting employers from asking job applicants for their salary history before making a job or salary offer. Representatives ROSA DELAURO, JERROLD NADLER, and JACKIE SPEIER are original cosponsors of the bill. Even though many employers may not intentionally discriminate against applicants or employees based on gender, race or ethnicity, setting wages based on salary history can reinforce the wage gap. Members of historically disadvantaged groups often start out their careers with unfair and artificially low wages compared to their white male counterparts, and the disparities are compounded from job to job throughout their careers.

Our bill will ensure that applicants' salaries are based on their skills and merit, not on a potentially problematic salary history, by assessing penalties against employers who ask applicants for their salary history during the interview process or as a condition of employment. It would also provide job applicants and employees with a private right of action against employers who violate these provisions.

Although the wage gap has decreased for some women, it still persists for women and men of color with similar skill sets. There is much work to be done to address the wage gap for everyone, and our bill is just one step toward that goal.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BAY AREA HOUSTON ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2016

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership (BAHEP).

For these past 40 years, BAHEP has been an indispensable ally in building economic prosperity in Houston and across southeast Texas. What began as a special project of the Clear Lake Chamber of Commerce in 1976, to promote business opportunities in greater Houston, has become a champion for economic development across southeast Texas. The passion and business acumen of BAHEP's member community these past 40 years will continue to fuel BAHEP's success for the next 40 years and beyond.

BAHEP has played an indispensable role in attracting and mobilizing the businesses and industries of southeast Texas. From their 2002 role in defining Johnson Space Center (JSC) as the home of manned spaceflight, to their assistance with the recovery after Hurricane Ike in 2008, BAHEP has both shaped and reshaped southeast Texas.

Under Bob Mitchell's leadership, BAHEP has launched new initiatives and expanded their advocacy on behalf of Houston's chemical, shipping, medical, aerospace and space industries, and the workforce on which those industries rely. Most recently, in 2015, BAHEP worked with the Houston Airport System to successfully petition the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to designate Ellington Airport as Texas' second spaceport.

It is my distinct honor to recognize and celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership. I look forward to seeing what heights of technological progress and economic prosperity this incredible coalition of job creators will foster in the next 40 years and beyond.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SUMMIT COUNTY EXECUTIVE RUSSELL M. PRY

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2016

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Summit County Executive Russell "Russ" M. Pry, who passed away on July 31, 2016 following a courageous battle with cancer.

Russ was born on May 30, 1958 to Helen Lucille (Morris) and Donald Pry and grew up in Mogadore, Ohio. His maternal grandmother, Elsie Morris, played a major role in his upbringing and her strong union and Democratic influence molded his values and lifelong desire to help people.

Russ was a successful attorney, two-time Mogadore Village Councilmember, Chair of the Summit County Democratic Party, member of the Summit County Board of Elections and for the last nine years of his life, the Summit

County Executive. More importantly, Russ was a leader, an advocate, a conciliator, and a friend. Russ gave willingly to many people throughout his life and worked in each position during his career to make people's lives richer and our community a better place. He was loyal, faithful and devoted to his friends and always was available with solid advice, a gentle word and a sympathetic ear.

As the Summit County Executive, Russ will be remembered by his many achievements, which include assisting and honoring the men and women of the military, creating and keeping jobs in Summit County, successfully guiding the County through difficult economic times, making Summit County government more efficient and effective and for beginning new programs aimed to help those in the community of greatest need.

Russ was a history buff, an avid reader, crossword puzzle ace and a Jeopardy whiz. He knew everything about our U.S. presidents and often grilled his friends and staff on American History trivia. Russ also enjoyed winding down his day with a cocktail at Rockne's, which he affectionately called his "West Office."

We have lost a brother, a great friend, a loyal Democrat, an incredibly smart man and genuine good guy who worked hard to make his community a better place. Rest in peace, Russ.

RECOGNIZING NEW LENOX'S PROUD AMERICAN DAYS MILITARY TRIBUTE

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2016

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight New Lenox's Park District's Proud American Days Military Tribute. Since 1984, the New Lenox Community Park District has been steadfastly dedicated to the commitments and sacrifices of our nation's service members. What started out as a small gathering is now one of the largest programs attended in the area.

New Lenox's motto reads, "The Home of Proud Americans" and they certainly live up to that slogan. On Sunday, July 31, 2016, more than two hundred people, including veterans, paid homage to those who have sacrificed so much to protect our great nation. These brave Americans endured so much so that we can enjoy the freedoms we have today and for that, we owe them our eternal gratitude.

During the tribute this year, the following veterans were recognized:

Machinist's Mate Second Class Robert Beazley, United States Navy

Master Sergeant Edward Dima, United States Air Force

Gunner's Mate Third Class Leonard Kapocis, United States Navy

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to submit these names for all to see, and I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring all of our nation's veterans.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN MARK TAKAI

HON. RAUL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2016

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Congressman Mark Takai, a friend and colleague who was taken from this institution far too early. Mark worked until his last days to represent the constituents of Hawaii's First Congressional District. Congress and the American people will dearly miss his relentlessness to better his state and country.

As a dedicated member of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, and from his seats on the House Armed Services and Small Business Committees, Mark saw it as a personal duty to speak up for those who had no voice. Mark was instrumental in efforts to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the Foot Soldiers who participated in the Selma to Montgomery Voting Rights March of 1965 and Purple Hearts to Filipino veterans of World War II. He also gathered over one hundred Members of Congress from both sides of the aisle to support a measure to provide benefits to veterans exposed to radioactive fallout while serving in the Marshall Islands during the late 1970s. Even though the distance was great between Capitol Hill and Honolulu, Mark was determined to use any opportunity he could, including a short weekend between first and last votes in Washington, to spend time with his family and serve his constituents.

The House Democratic Caucus has lost an incredible champion and friend in Mark Takai, and we are deeply saddened by a sudden end to a young life cut short. May Mark's lovely wife, Sami, his two beautiful children, Matthew and Kaila, and the incredible people of the State of Hawaii find peace and comfort in the days ahead.

RECOVERY MONTH

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2016

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, every year people all over the country acknowledge National Recovery Month. National Recovery Month recognizes the many thousands of individuals who have successfully recovered from substance use and abuse.

There are millions of people at 12 step classes, Alcoholics Anonymous, and other recovery programs meeting every hour of the day and every day of the week.

It reminds me of what Henry David Thoreau said, "I know of no more encouraging fact than the unquestionable ability of man [person] to elevate his life by a conscious endeavor".

National Recovery Month helps to bring awareness and substantial change in our nation and in our communities.

While we are thankful for the success, we must do more. The statistics are stunning.

Prince's death from an opiate overdose in April 2016 made national headlines. His death is one of many thousands that died from overdose of prescribed drugs and illegal substances like heroin.